

ER 6-5919

1 FEB 1955

**MEMORANDUM FOR: The Commanding General
Military Air Transport Service**

**SUBJECT : Trip to South and Central America
-- Commendation of Crew**

1. As you know from 29 November to 23 December 1954, inclusive, I made a trip through South and Central America in one of your Special Air Mission planes.

2. The crew of the C-54 aircraft was:

Major Emmett J. Laney, AO [redacted]
First Pilot - Captain Roger P. Larivee, [redacted]
Navigator - Captain John A. Smith, AO [redacted]
First Engineer - M/Sgt. Edward Schrempf, AF [redacted]
Second Engineer - M/Sgt. James E. Atherton, AF [redacted]
First Flight Attendant - Tech/Sgt. Vernon J. Shell, AF [redacted]
Second Flight Attendant, A/IC Joseph P. Fini, AF [redacted]
Radio Operator - Tech/Sgt. Henry J. Smith, AF [redacted]

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3. Without exception this crew acquitted itself in an especially fine manner throughout the trip. It was a genuine pleasure to be associated with the officers and airmen of the crew, and each of them is a credit to the Air Force.

4. The trip was placed on an exceptionally tight schedule at my request. Basic planning was accomplished by Special Air Missions. Final planning was done by Major Laney, the pilot, and Captain Smith, the navigator. The excellence of their planning and their outstanding execution made it possible for us to maintain this schedule in spite of its very close timing.

5. I particularly would like to commend Major Laney, who demonstrated exceptional tact, enthusiasm for his job, and proficiency as a pilot.

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G. P. CANELL
Lieutenant General, USAF
Deputy Director

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